

REMARKS

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner noted that on Page 8, line 7, "dimethyle" should be "dimethyl." The appropriate amendment has been made to the specification.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 14 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 14 has been deleted without prejudice. Claim 30 has been amended to overcome the rejection.

Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 14 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 12, 13, 15, and 17-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Courduvelis. Claim 1 is the only independent claim, and some of these claims have been deleted.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the limitation that an acid is added to the waste to decrease a pH of the waste and decomposition of the reducing agent.

In Courduvelis, a catalyst is added to promote metal to reducing agent reaction. The reaction causes precipitation of the metal. The pH increases, as

well as temperature. See in particular column 3, lines 22, 43, and 52.

Courduvelis does not teach that the reducing agent can be decomposed by decreasing the pH of the waste with an acid.

As such, claim 1 and its dependencies are not anticipated by Courduvelis. Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) of claims 1 and its dependencies.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 3, 4, 10, 11, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courduvelis and further in view of Kamperman. Some of these claims have been deleted and the limitations of claim 3 have been included in claim 1.

Courduvelis does not disclose the limitations of claim 3, according to the discussion above. Kamperman discloses that a catalyst can be added to promote metal to reducing agent reaction. The metal will precipitate. The pH is at neutral or basic (5-9), and the temperature increases. See for example column 3, lines 41 and 42. As such, Kamperman does not disclose that the reducing agent can be decomposed by adding an acid which decreases a pH of the waste.

Courduvelis and Kamperman thus in combination do not teach at least one limitation of claim 1. Claim 1 can, accordingly, not be obvious in view of the combined references.

The Examiner also rejected claims 5-9, 27, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

as being unpatentable over Courduvelis in view of Kamperman and further in view of Belongia. These claims depend from independent claims and should be allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims.

The Examiner also rejected claims 26, 29, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courduvelis and further in view of Belongia. This includes independent claim 26. The Examiner contends that it is known in the art to utilize gas detection sensors to aid in controlling the regeneration of an electroless plating waste. What should be noted is that electroless plating waste is not being regenerated; instead, an electroless plating waste is being treated before being dispensed in a drain. See Page 2, Paragraph [003]. Some of the references that are cited by the Examiner, for example Courduvelis, disclose waste treatment of electroless plating waste. However, Courduvelis does not disclose that it is appreciated that the concentration of gas released is indicative of the completion of the reaction. As such, Courduvelis does not suggest that the gas concentration levels can be monitored to monitor the reaction. As such, claim 26 and its dependencies cannot be obvious in view of Courduvelis and Belongia.

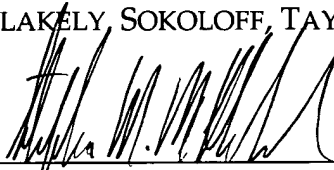
Applicant, accordingly, respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claim 26 and its dependencies under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Courduvelis in view of Belongia.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Stephen M. De Klerk at (408) 720-8300.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Any necessary extension of time for response not already requested is hereby requested. Please charge any corresponding fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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